

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission  
March 24, 2010  
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center  
Room 5-300  
100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, Illinois  
and  
Lincoln Land Training Center  
130 W. Mason Street, Room 104  
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

**PRESENT:**

**Commissioners**

**In Chicago**

Chairman Martin R. Castro  
Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.  
David Chang  
Robert S. Enriquez  
Spencer Leak, Sr.  
Rozanne Ronen  
Diane Viverito  
Gregory Simoncini  
Charles E. Box

**In Springfield**

Marti Baricevic

**Absent**

Marylee V. Freeman  
Munir Muhammad

**Staff**

N. Keith Chamber, Executive Director  
Reva Bauch  
LaNade Bridges  
Dr. Ewa I. Ewa  
Michael J. Evans

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Harriet Parker  
Donyelle L. Gray  
Evelio Mora  
Christine Welninski  
Nicole Walker (student extern)

Members of Public: *None*

NOTICE:  
Public meetings and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

**I. Call to Order**

On March 24, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting without the physical presence of Commissioners Freeman and Muhammad. Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Freeman gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Harriet Parker, that she would be unable to attend the March 24, 2010, meeting.

Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Muhammad gave notice to the Executive Director, N. Keith Chambers that he would be unable to attend the March 24, 2010, meeting.

Chairman Castro announced two appointments by Governor Quinn to the Commission, including Commissioner Charles E. Box who was present and Commissioner Nabi Fakroddin who was not present. Commissioner Box was introduced and briefly shared his background and professional experience.

**II. Consideration of Minutes**

February 24, 2010

The Commission voted to approve the minutes subject to an amendment of the minutes at line three of Dr. Ewa's report to substitute the phrase . . ."prevailed in *dodging*

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imposition of a 3 per cent plus” . . . with a different turn of phrase. Motion made by Commissioner Hussain and seconded by Commissioner Baricevic to approve the minutes subject to the amendment. Motion carried 10-0.

**III. Staff Reports**

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Executive Director N. Keith Chambers reported on his appearance before the Illinois Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing in Springfield which he attended with Chairman Castro, Dr. Ewa, Chief Administrative Law Judge Evans and General Counsel Parker. Chairman Castro served as spokesman on behalf of the Commission. The Hearing was short and uneventful. The HRC has been scheduled to appear before the Illinois House Appropriations Committee Hearing on April 15, 2010. The Executive Director reported on the various meetings he had attended during the months of February and March 2010, including Cabinet and Budget Meetings in the Office of the Governor.

Chairman Castro had a chance encounter with Appropriations Committee member State Senator William Delgado after his appearance before that Committee. Senator Delgado shared with the Chairman that the Commission's appearance before the Appropriations Hearing had been sympathetically received.

The Executive Director reported that the Commission's Springfield office will be relocated to the 8th floor of the Stratton Building (room 802) on or about March 31, 2010. A final draft of the Commission's 2008/2009 annual report has been sent to the State's Central Management Services, graphic design department for finishing.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Chief Fiscal Officer Dr. Ewa reported that due to substantial cuts in the Commission's FY 2011 budget, staff is being encouraged to order sufficient supplies for FY 2011, using available FY 2010 funds. The three current vacant positions remain unfunded and will therefore, remain vacant. Lastly Dr. Ewa reported the Auditor General's audit of the Commission is ongoing.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Judge Evans reported that twenty-four (24) cases had been filed with the Commission and twenty-eight (28) cases had been disposed of for the month of February 2010.

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Judge Evans also reported that as of March 24, 2010, no new window cases had been filed with the Commission.

**D. Harriet J. Parker, General Counsel**

General Counsel Harriet Parker reported on the amendments to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") and The Illinois Human Rights Act. General Counsel Parker advised the Commission that under the new FOIA amendment, a requester may request a copy of a State employee's performance evaluation.

General Counsel Parker reminded the Commission of the upcoming May 3, 2010, deadline for filing Statements of Economic Interest. All such Statements must be reviewed by the General Counsel prior to submission to the Secretary of State.

The General Counsel reported on Requests for Review activity for the month of February, 2010. Thirty-four Requests for Review were filed with the Commission and thirty-three cases were disposed for the month of February 2010.

**IV. Old Business**

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

The minutes of the February 24, 2010, Executive Session were approved as submitted by staff. Motion made by Commissioner Hussain, with a second by Commissioner Enriquez. Motion carried 10-0.

**V. New Business**

Chairman Castro Chairman suggested the need to promote, via educational outreach, a greater understanding of the Commission and of the Illinois Human Rights Act to the general public. Several of the Commissioners agreed with the Chairman and made suggestions regarding various methods of outreach and education, including a possible speaker's bureau, in the public schools and before various community and social service organizations.

Deputy General Counsel Donyelle Gray advised the Commission that she had met with law professors from Cornell University and Northwestern University Law Schools. The

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professors plan to conduct a study of Commission ALS adjudicated cases. The study will begin in June 2010.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Hussain, with a second by Commissioner Enriquez. Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Parker  
General Counsel